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For Immediate Release

January 18, 2007

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LEESVILLE WOMAN GETS MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR LYING UNDER OATH

*Five year sentence to be served consecutively to oath eight year
state court sentence currently being served*

Lake Charles, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that ASHLEY NICOLE SPEARING, age 20, from Westlake, Louisiana was sentenced this week to **60 months (5 years) federal imprisonment to be followed by 3 years supervised release** by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi for making false declarations before court. SPEARING pled guilty to a Bill of Information in September 2006.

SPEARING was charged following investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into SPEARING's testimony in another matter.

SPEARING was arrested by the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office in February 2006 for possession of methamphetamine. At the time of her arrest, SPEARING advised that she was selling methamphetamine for Jacob Furlow, that Furlow possessed firearms, and he had threatened her with a firearm. Furlow was indicted federally in March 2006. SPEARING later executed an affidavit on Furlow's behalf denying that

she ever made those statements when she was arrested. She also denied those statements under oath during a court hearing.

Later, a federal prisoner awaiting sentencing in the Calcasieu Correctional Center provided a number of letters executed by SPEARING admitting to drug trafficking , being physically threatened by Furlow, and not being truthful under oath during the court hearing. After a thorough investigation, SPEARING was to appear before a federal grand jury to testify. However, she pled guilty to the charge before her scheduled grand jury appearance.

SPEARING was prosecuted in the 14th Judicial District, Calcasieu Parish, for the February 2006 arrest and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment for probation violation and possession of methamphetamine. The sentence imposed by the federal court is to run consecutively to the state court's sentence.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brett L. Grayson.

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